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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Letter dated 15 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued by the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of the Sudan on 12 October 1998 on the extension of the ceasefire in the Bahr-Alghazal states in southern Sudan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 20 (b), in relation to emergency assistance to the Sudan.

(*Signed*) Elfatih **Erwa**
Permanent Representative of the
Sudan to the United Nations

98-30815 (E) 191098

Annex

Statement by the Ministry of External Relations of the Sudan of 12 October 1998 on the extension of the ceasefire in the Bahr-Alghazal states

1. Comprehensive and complete ceasefire was the constant and principled position of the Government of the Sudan throughout the previous Nairobi peace talks. The objective was to create an atmosphere conducive to the achievement of a lasting and durable solution to the war that has negatively affected the whole of the nation. The position of the rebel movement has always been total rejection of that position.

2. The basic and clear stand of the Government was further manifested by its acceptance of the various appeals launched by the summit of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the European Union and the United Nations Security Council, at a time when the rebel movement persisted in its refusal of all such repeated appeals.

3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Government of the Sudan agreed last July to a partial ceasefire for three months, expiring on 15 October 1998, in all the Bahr-Alghazal states, in response to the kind appeal by the President of Kenya, Daniel arap Moi, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Derek Fatchett. In doing so, the Government was not only guided and inspired by its responsibility towards its citizens in southern Sudan, but also by its deep conviction of the need to ensure access to and to alleviate the plight of its needy people.

4. Despite its known position on a comprehensive ceasefire and its belief that partial ceasefire may not serve the desired objectives and may further worsen the general situation, the Government of the Sudan would like to declare hereby its agreement to extend the announced ceasefire in the Bahr-Alghazal states for another three months in order to ensure delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected citizens, responding further to the request by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and in recognition of the humanitarian efforts of the Organization, as well as in response to the kind appeals by President Moi and the Government of Italy, in its capacity as Chairman of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Partners.